

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-37 and 39 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 11, 17 and 27 being independent. Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 14, 17-20, 27, 28, 30, and 31 are amended herein.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-14, 16, 17-19, 22, 23, 26-30, 32-37, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the article by Cheong S Ang, et al., “A Versatile Client-Side Image Map for the Web”, Proceedings of the Fourth WWW Conference at Boston, Dec. 1995, pp. 1-10. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25-37, and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niemi, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0105531. Claims 5, 8, 21 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article by Cheong S. Ang et al. and over Niemi.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 14, 17-20, 27, 28, 30, and 31 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a method of creating a file describing a digital image, comprising the steps of: defining at least one zoomable area in the image, a zoomable area being defined by characteristics of location of the area in the image and for which additional data defining the image at a greater quality or resolution are available, writing the characteristics of the at least one zoomable area in a first file, and writing in the first file at least one management function implemented in a computer-executable language for navigation in the image.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the at least one management function is for navigation incompatibility.

In contrast, neither the article by Cheong S Ang, et al., nor the publication to Niemi is understood to disclose or suggest the step of writing in the first file at least one management function for navigation incompatibility implemented in a computer-executable language for navigation in the image, as recited by amended Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 1 is understood to be not anticipated by these citations. In addition, in the September 19, 2006 interview, the Examiner indicated that such an amendment would overcome the rejection over this art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn. And because independent Claims 11, 17 and 27 have also been amended in this way, they are also over this art.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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